

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Glenn Hollowell, Finfish Area Management Biologist
Ethan Ford, Fisheries Biologist
Phone: (907) 235-8191, Fax: (907) 235-2448

Lower Cook Inlet Area Office
3298 Douglas Place
Homer, AK 99603

Date Issued: Thursday, July 19, 2012, 2:00 pm

Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #15

SUBSISTENCE: Waters of the Port Graham Subdistrict including the English Bay Section remain open to weekly subsistence set gillnet harvest periods from 6:00 AM, Monday until 10:00 PM, Sunday and will continue on this schedule until further notice. Total passage at the English Bay weir through July 17 was 3,380 fish. The SEG for this system is 6,000 – 13,500 sockeye salmon. Historically the average English Bay sockeye salmon return is over 97% complete by July 16. The intent of this opening is to provide opportunity for subsistence users to harvest other species as well as sockeye salmon returning to the Port Graham hatchery remote release site.

KAMISHAK BAY DISTRICT: Waters of the Bruin Bay Subdistrict outside of Bruin Bay south of the headland north of Contact Point, (59° 23.06'N. lat., 153° 57.02'W. long.) and waters within Bruin Bay remain open to commercial seine harvest on a seven day per week schedule. All anadromous stream markers ARE IN EFFECT. All other waters of the Kamishak Bay District **excluding** the Chenik, McNeil, and Paint River subdistricts remain open on a 7-day per week schedule to commercial seine harvest.

Preliminary reports indicate that 45,000 sockeye salmon have been harvested from the Chenik Subdistrict to date. The SEG range for Chenik Lake is 3,500 – 14,000 fish with a midpoint of 8,750. Preliminary video counts to date are,

June 22-27	271 fish
June 27-July 1	1,498 fish
July 1-3	4,745 fish
July 3-6	1,056 fish
July 6-10	1,284 fish
July 10-18	6 fish
Total video passage	8,860 fish (as of 10:30 AM 7/18)

An aerial survey conducted on Wednesday, July 18 counted approximately 4,000 sockeye salmon in Chenik Lagoon. Hard drives were pulled from the video cameras at Chenik Lake yesterday and will be pulled again early next week. A total of 6 fish were documented as having entered the lake from July 10 – 18. Since 2003, escapement to Chenik Lake has ranged from a minimum of 10,330 fish (2011) to a maximum of 18,288 fish (2007) with an average during this period of 14,600 sockeye salmon.

Also during yesterday's survey, 410 sockeye salmon were observed at the outfall of Kirchner Lake. In addition, 4,488 chum salmon were observed in the Bruin Bay River (SEG 6,000 – 10,250), 812 in Strike Creek, and 220 in Sunday Creek. Amekdedori Creek had 520 sockeye salmon counted (SEG 1,250 – 2,600). The next survey of this district will occur early next week.

OUTER and EASTERN DISTRICTS: The Delight Lake weir counted 1,596 fish as of yesterday. As the result of heavy rains and high water, the weir washed out for several days earlier this month. This likely resulted in an unknown number of fish passing the weir, because an aerial survey on Monday, July 16 counted 4,000 fish in Delight Lake in addition to 1,500 below the weir in the estuary and river. While the SEG for weir counts at Delight Lake is 7,500 – 17,650, the SEG for aerial survey counts for this system is 5,950 to 12,550 fish. Given the current situation, management will take into account the aerial survey calibrated SEG range.

In addition, 3,510 fish were observed in Desire Lake (SEG of 8,800 – 15,200) with 432 also observed in Aialik Lake (SEG of 3,700 – 8,000) also on that date. No pink salmon were observed in Port Dick or other systems east of this location. Chum salmon were observed in modest numbers (2,200 fish) in Port Dick as well as in Dogfish Bay (several hundred) earlier this week.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT: Waters of the China Poot Subdistrict excluding the China Poot SHA, and waters of the Halibut Cove Subdistrict, excluding Halibut Cove Lagoon, remain open to commercial salmon **purse seine harvest** on a regular schedule of two 64-hour fishing periods per week, from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 10:00 p.m. Saturday until further notice.

---continued---

The China Poot SHA is defined in 5 AAC 21.373 as, “the marine waters of the China Poot Bay Subdistrict in the Southern District shoreward of and enclosed by a line from 59° 34.66' N. lat., 151° 19.27' W. long., to 59° 35.08' N. lat., 151° 19.77' W. long., to 59° 33.09' N. lat., 151° 25.22' W. long., to 59°32.84' N. lat., 151° 24.90' W. long.;

Also within the Southern District, waters of the Barabara Creek Subdistrict, the Tutka Bay Subdistrict, the Halibut Cove Subdistrict and the Seldovia Bay Subdistrict remain open to commercial salmon **set gillnet harvest** on a regular schedule of two 48-hour fishing periods per week, from 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, and from 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 a.m. Saturday until further notice. Waters of the Port Graham Subdistrict remain closed to commercial set gillnet harvest.

Preliminary set gillnet commercial harvest to date from the Southern District is shown below,

Period			Sockeye			Chinook			Chum			Pink		
#	Dates	Del.	10-yr avg.	2011 harvest	2012 harvest	10-yr avg.	2011 harvest	2012 harvest	10-yr avg.	2011 harvest	2012 harvest	10-yr avg.	2011 harvest	2012 harvest
1	6/1 - 6/2	6	158	1,214	429	31	15	5	6	20	15	---	0	0
2	6/4 - 6/6	7	1,278	700	519	100	9	7	18	16	6	---	0	0
3	6/7 - 6/9	7	894	287	615	90	11	7	28	24	33	---	0	0
4	6/11 - 6/13	9	1,491	707	465	72	16	16	51	27	76	---	0	0
5	6/14 - 6/16	6	903	292	218	55	9	3	47	7	18	---	0	0
6	6/18 - 6/20	8	1,634	382	635	57	6	5	88	16	35	---	0	93
7	6/21 - 6/23	5	1,003	1,269	420	41	5	2	66	90	47	27	0	48
8	6/25 - 6/27	7	1,885	998	467	34	4	5	228	83	39	132	171	183
9	6/28 - 6/30	7	1,801	967	529	19	3	2	188	120	44	146	48	126
10	7/2 - 7/4	7	2,854	1,470	530	22	9	9	299	26	122	337	70	5
11	7/5 - 7/7	7	2,370	2,302	553	14	5	1	175	110	11	359	62	3
12	7/9 - 7/11	10	3,363	5,352	819	14	3	3	186	285	67	546	270	1
13	7/12 - 7/14	5	2,281	2,131	556	7	2	0	149	183	61	258	496	0
14	7/16 - 7/18	7	3,516	2,405	979	7	3	0	209	281	105	364	264	11
Total			25,431	20,476	7,734	563	100	65	1,738	1,288	679	2,169	1,381	470

Preliminary purse seine harvests this week are, 1,021 sockeye (avg. wt. 5.15 lbs.), and 326 pink salmon (avg. wt. 3.08 lbs.) with 7 deliveries reported. Harvest from previous weeks is confidential due to fewer than 3 vessels reporting deliveries.

HATCHERY UPDATE: Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) began cost recovery on Monday, May 21 in Resurrection Bay. As of July 18, a total of 83,429 sockeye salmon had been harvested from saltwater in Resurrection Bay as well as at the Bear Creek Weir. Hatchery and wild broodstock escapement past the Bear Creek weir as of July 19 was 12,334 sockeye salmon. The wild stock SEG for Bear Lake is 700 – 8,300 and the Trail Lakes Hatchery broodstock goal is 4,258 sockeye salmon.

The overall CIAA cost recovery goal of 1.55 million dollars was to be met using 136 thousand fish harvested from Resurrection Bay and 19 thousand from the Tutka Bay Lagoon return. Given the below anticipated return to Resurrection Bay, CIAA cost recovery will occur at the China Poot and Kirchner Lake SHAs in addition to the SHA in Tutka Bay. Anticipated sockeye salmon returns to these remote release sites are,

Kirchner Lake - 10,200 fish,
China Poot/Hazel Lake – 6,500 fish, and
Tutka Lagoon – 28,000 fish.

Compounding this, 5,028 sockeye salmon were to have been harvested from the English Bay River weir by CIAA as broodstock for Lower Cook Inlet remote releases. Given the below anticipated return to the English Bay River system, these broodstock fish will now be harvested from remote release sites listed above. Fish returning to these sites are all of Hidden Lake stock. In addition, 2,000 fish of English Bay broodstock are anticipated to return to the Port Graham hatchery remote release site. These fish may be used as broodstock if required.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be on Friday, July 27.

Announcement recordings are available on the 24-hour telephone recording in the Homer office at 907/235-7307.

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web address:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyarealci.salmon>

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.